

(*Carphephorus bellidifolius*), grassleaf blazing-star (*Liatris pilosa*), and goat's rue (*Tephrosia virginiana*).

Nestled within the sandhill community area a few small Carolina bays supporting the rare Cypress Savanna natural community. This community occurs in bays with a layer of clay in the soil, and are typically flooded during winter and spring, then become exposed later in the growing season. However, some years they can be flooded year-round. These small basins are characterized by a diverse ground layer of grasses, sedges, and wildflowers, with or without an open canopy of pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*). The Cypress Savanna depressions at this site have few or no cypress, and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) has seeded in during extended droughts. Higher water levels in more recent years have killed off many of the pines. Prominent in the diverse ground layer are maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliniana*), and Wright's witch grass (*Dichantheium wrightianum*). The very rare pondberry is an important shrub in one of the bay savannas.

Another small isolated depression supports the Small Depression Pocosin community. Like other pocosin communities, it has a dense shrub layer with an open canopy of pond pine (*Pinus serotina*). Swamp red bay (*Persea palustris*) forms a sparse subcanopy over the crowded shrubs of blueberry (*Vaccinium* species), inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), gallberry (*I. coriacea*), and common greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*). This community differs from the related Pond Pine Woodland community by its small size and isolated situation. Small headwater streams on the site also support pocosin vegetation, with Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) and loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) often prominent in the canopy.

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION: The great majority of Pondberry Bay/White Woods is in Pondberry Bay Preserve, a Dedicated state nature preserve managed by the N.C. Plant Conservation Program, an office of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The site is managed to maintain and restore natural community structure and composition. Prescribed burning is a primary tool to accomplish these goals by reducing woody vegetation dominance and promoting greater graminoid and forb diversity. A small area is privately owned and not protected.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Cypress Savanna, Pine/Scrub Oak Sandhill Mixed Oak Variant, Small Depression Pocosin.

RARE PLANTS: Sandhills milk-vetch (*Astragalus michauxii*), pine barren boneset (*Eupatorium resinosum*), pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), pondspice (*Litsea aestivalis*), awned meadow-beauty (*Rhexia aristosa*), Georgia nutrush (*Scleria georgiana*). Watch List: flaxleaf gerardia (*Agalinis linifolia*), pinebarrens goober grass (*Amphicarpum amphicarpon*), narrowleaf bluestem (*Andropogon perangustatus*), erectleaf witch grass (*Dichantheium erectifolium*), blackfruit spikerush (*Eleocharis melanocarpa*) three-angle spikerush (*E. tricostrata*), Small's yellow-eyed-grass (*Xyris smalliana*).

RARE ANIMALS: Vertebrates - Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*), Mabee's salamander (*Ambystoma mabeei*), chicken turtle (*Deirochelys reticularia*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides*